



Save Me!

Introduction

Using the endangered species factsheets, develop pupils' understanding of what causes some animals to become endangered and support them to consider why it is important to save these animals from extinction.

Development

Share the 'Ode to Extinction' poem from the assembly resource. Discuss how the orangutan in the poem feels. You may find it helpful to revisit the topics and reflection points raised in the assembly to support a whole class discussion on why some animals are endangered. Then, using the factsheets, support pupils to reflect on what it must be like to be each of the endangered species.

Brainstorm and list some key phrases and vocabulary to support the independent writing task. Older, more able pupils may like to use the poetic style sheet to introduce them to the topic, but then experiment in their own style.

Independent activity

Using the title 'Save me!' pupils write poems or prose to express what it is like to be their chosen endangered species.

For older/more able pupils, the factsheets should provide sufficient information to support their compositions.

Younger/less able pupils may find it easier to write poetry about a particular animal and its plight.

Plenary

Share pupil's poetry as a class. Can children guess which of the endangered species is featured in the poem? Allow pupils to self evaluate the task using traffic lights, thumbs up, or your own method, to assess the individual complexity and enjoyment of the task.

Pupils could use their poetry as stimulus for pavement art, which can be entered into the Young Pavement Artists Competition 2009.

Poetic style

Rhyming Couplets – where each pair of lines rhyme with each other:

For example: Save Me!

A sun bear surely should be **sunny**,
But the loss of my habitat isn't **funny**,
The smallest bear extinct will **be**,
If someone doesn't come and save **me!**

Haiku – three unrhymed lines in a 5-7-5 syllabic meter- the first line has 5 syllables, the second 7, and the last 5

For example: The Tiger

Stripy fur, green eyes,
Hunter hunted for my skin,
Facing extinction

Acrostic - A poem in which certain letters of the lines, usually the first letters, form a word or message relating to the subject

For example: Misunderstood

Wild and beautiful hunter, my cousin
Old faithful, a household pet, while I
Lonely and unwanted am threatened with extinction, the
Fierce foe of fairytale and fable!